

The work of Prof. Renault is closed by remarks on the geological distribution of the plants of the families which he has examined.

The *Cicadæ* appear in the Carboniferous by *Pterophyllum carbonarium* and persist through the more recent formations to our time.

The *Zamiæ* have also a carboniferous species *Næggerathia foliosa*, and a few others in the Jurassic.

The *Cycadoxylæ* are represented by fossil wood of the upper Carboniferous.

The *Cordaites*, the *Poroxylæ* and *Sigillariæ* are all Carboniferous and Devonian ; a few ascending to the base of the Permian.

Certain Almanacs Published in Philadelphia between 1705 and 1744.
By Henry Phillips, Jr.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, February 18, 1881.)

In the library of our Society is a volume of Almanacs printed and published in Philadelphia, at various dates between 1705 and 1744.

They are remarkable specimens of the degree of perfection, or rather lack of perfection, to which the art of printing had attained in the Middle Colonies in those early days, beginning with extremely bad paper, blurred impressions and imperfect type, and exhibiting a progressive improvement towards the later dates, but nowhere showing, however, what now-a-days would be called a good piece of work.

The volume which is a duodecimo, consists of Jacob Taylor's Almanacs for 1705, 1706, 1709, 1711, 1712, 1719, 1720, 1723, 1727, 1738, 1740, 1741, 1743, 1744, and Titan Leed's Almanac for 1718.

As a curiosity I reproduce the title page of Taylor's Almanac for 1705, which will serve as a fair specimen of the manner in which publishers of that era were wont to attract the attention of the purchasing community.

An ALMANACK for the year 1705. | AN | EPHEMERIS | of the Motions and ASPECTS of the | PLANETS | and the Eclipses of the Luminaries for the Year | of English account 1705 | Fitted to the latitude of 40 Degrees North, and | the Longitude of 75 Degrees West of London; | serving Pensilvania and the Places adjacent. | By JACOB TAYLOR. | Hermes Trismegistus. Centiloq. Aphor. 33 |. Saturn Passing out of one sign into another causes strange Apparitions in the Heavens which the Arabians term Asiub; & Cer | tain other signs of a fiery nature. | To which is added by C. P. some remarks on D. L's abuses | to the Quakers, in his this Years two ALMANACKS. | Printed at Philadelphia by Tiberius Johnson. | .

This Almanac is a small volume of sixteen leaves, pages unnumbered and without signatures.

On the recto of the title page is a "Table of the *KINGS of England*, shewing the Years wherein They began to Reign; the Years which they have Reigned, and the Years since they Reigned."

The second leaf is occupied by a piece of terrible poetry, most shockingly printed, in which is depicted the difficulty

“*To please all Humors suit all sorts of men,*”

and concluding with the lines,

“To them that shall presume that Risque to run,
To let us know how were imposed on,
Detraction, envy, slander shall accrue (qy accrue?)
From that ill natured, vaunting, lying Artless Crue.”

The last word is so badly printed as to be almost illegible.

The page following contains an explanation of the Almanac, and the characters and signs.

The next page sets forth the eclipses for 1705.

On the next page occurs “XI month JANUA. *Ceteris mensibus,*” below which is the usual calendar with weather predictions.

On the subsequent page is a table of the motions of the planets, beneath a heading “The Eleventh *Month* 1705,” and followed by remarks on the Conjunction of Saturn and Mars set down for the month.

On the next page is “The XII Month FEBRUATIO *Romanorum,*” and beneath are the usual calculations and weather predictions. On the left hand pages the months continue, ending with DECEMBER, *Decimus Mensis*. On almost every right hand page there is a piece of poetry relating to the supposed influences of the starry bodies and their motions, as to the passage of the seasons. Under August, we find

“But Leeds exerts a Thumping Wit
Above all vulgar measure,
Moves Nature in a jumping fit,
According to his pleasure;

Transcribing was the Art he us'd
'Twas all the skill he had,
But being of the same Accus'd
It almost made him M—D.”

On the last three pages the author falls foul of Daniel Leeds, a rival Almanac maker, charging him with having stolen from Gadbury's Ephemeris and also from a little work by Jacob Taylor, entitled Eclipses of the Sun and Moon for twenty years. The attack is characterized by all the personalities and indecorum which were usual among our free spoken ancestors.

The first printing office in Pennsylvania was established about 1686, by William Bradford, and the earliest productions of this Press were Almanacs for the years 1686 and 1687. (Thomas, History of Printing, Vol. i, p. 209.)

The name of Jacob Taylor appears as that of a printer, who “was in town” in 1712, but Thomas states that he never met with anything that bore his imprint, and entertains doubts as to whether he was actually a printer. He says, “There was a Jacob Taylor, who for about thirty years annually calculated an Almanac, which was published in Philadel-

phia by Andrew Bradford ; he was probably the same person ; he died in 1746."

Thomas (Vol. i, p. 223) does not mention the existence of a printer named *Tiberius Johnson*, the person who printed this Almanac, but states that a certain *Renier Jansen* managed the press of William Bradford in Philadelphia from the time of his removal to New York until his son Andrew came of age.

Mr. John William Wallace, who has an especial knowledge of all things relating to early Pennsylvania printing, informs me that Tiberius Johnson was a son of Renier Jansen, whose name easily passed from and through the form of Jansen to Johnson, but he states that this Tiberius Johnson "so far as being an actual printer, or indeed a person having even a theoretical knowledge of typography * * * is a revelation" to him. That he never before heard of any imprint by him, and that the fact that he ever did make one has been generally unknown. This little volume, which bears his imprint, therefore appears to be unique.

It is therefore probable that Tiberius Johnson continued to nurse the business till Andrew took it. The Jacob Taylor Almanac for 1706 was "printed for the author ;" that of 1709, bears no imprint at all ; 1711 and 1712, are "printed at Philadelphia." The Almanac of Jacob Taylor of 1719 bears the imprint of Andrew Bradford.

The Almanac issued by "Titan Leeds, Philomat" bears title "The American Almanac for the year * * * * * 1718 * * * Printed and Sold by Andrew Bradford at the sign of the Bible in Philadelphia."

It is likewise a small duodecimo of twelve leaves, lacking signatures and unnumbered.

On the *recto* of the title is an address to the "*Curteous Reader*" in which occurs the following passage ;

"*Note.* That whereas my Preface, Last year gave Account that at least one Third of the Inhabitants of *West Jersey* were of the People called *Quakers*, but in my Copy I had written that there was not one third *Quakers*."

*I Believe I may Venture,
To say this I do take,
For a wilfull mistake ;
Of My Printer."*

The usual figure of "The Anatomy of *Man's Body* as govern'd by the 12 Constellations" appears on the leaf following the title page, and is a most execrable work of art, shockingly engraved.

The astronomical calculations in the body of the Almanac are interspersed of pithy sayings of more or less point ; such as, "Land winds are coldest, so sea winds are warmest," "He is sober who is never drunk with anything but wine," "The old woman would not seek her daughter in the oven if she had not been there herself," "Oft under honey sweet poison lurks," "March dust to be sold worth Ransom of Gold," "An evil crow an evil egg ;" "Beware of a Smooth Devil ;" "Scotch mist wets Englishmen to the Skin ;" "So many planets joined together denote some Thun-

dring weather ;” “Passion runs through all languages.” “Proceed, but do justice ;” “It is a bad Devil that does no good.”

Above the calculations for each month is a piece of six lined poetry of moral and didactic nature.

In January it runs thus :

Old Janers still begins the rouling Year,
And all that's past no vows can e'er restore" * * * ;

in December :

"Death is a kalendar composed by Fate,
Concerning all men, never out of Date." * * * * *

It gives also a list of eclipses and the Date of holding “Supream Courts in *Pensilvania*.

At *Philadelphia* the tenth day of *April* and the 24 Day of *September*.

Courts of Quarter Sessions in *Pensilvania*. At *Philadelphia*, the first Monday in *March*, *June*, *September*, and *December*. * * *

Courts of Common Pleas are held : At *Philadelphia*, the first Wednesday after the Court of Quarter Sessions * *.

Then follow the terms of the *Supream* Courts and Courts of Common Pleas in New York, and the *Supream* Courts and Courts of Quarter Sessions in New Jersey, and at the end is a calendar of Court Days for Maryland.

Taylor's Almanac for 1719 was printed and sold by “Andrew Bradford in the Second Street near the great meeting House, in Philadelphia, 1719.”

It is a small duodecimo of fifteen leaves, in signatures lettered respectively, A, B, C and D.

The compiler is honest enough to state, in the beginning, that “the Sentences on the Heads of the Monthly Pages are mostly borrowed.”

Among the most noteworthy are the following :

“From the first Hour of the Day (or one in the morning inclusive) till six B good predominates, whence morning sleep becomes so sweet and pleasant, from thence to Noon, Choler, Afternoon, Phlegm, from the Beginning of the Night till Midnight, Melancholy.”

“Near to St. Omer's in Flanders is a large Lake in which are divers floating Islands, most of them Inhabited, in one of them is a Church with a Monastery.”

“In the Year 1276 the Countess of Heneberg Daughter to Florent the 4th Earl of Holland, had at one Birth 365 Children, all baptized by Don William suffragan Bishop of Treves, in two Brazen Dishes, in the Village of Lofdeen.”

Who can refuse credence to a fact so circumstantially set forth ?

Taylor's Almanac for 1720 was issued by the same “Andrew Bradford at the sign of the Bible in Second Street.”

At the head each of the twelve pages of the almanac on which the calculations for the months are set forth is a piece of poetry, and toward the end of the volume occurs a remarkable piece of rhyme, entitled A Cronology, setting forth various odd occurrences.

In Taylor's Almanac for 1723 we find the following poem :

“ Full Forty years have now their changes made,
 Since the foundation of this town was laid,
 When Jove and Saturn were in Leo joined ;
 They saw the survey of the place design'd ;
 Swift were those planets, and the world will own
 Swift was the progress of the rising town.
 The Lion is an active Regal sign,
 And Sol beheld the two superiors join,
 A city built with such Propitious rays,
 Will stand to see old Walls and happy days.”

In Taylor's Almanac for 1737 occurs the following ;

Take half an Ounce of Rainbows fil'd to dust,
 Three grains of Party-Papers true and just,
 One grain of Satyrs, candid, just and fit,
 Without Illnature, cant or dev'lish wit ;
 Mix these with Art to make the sov'reign Pills,
 That cured Train of Epidemic Ills.

In the MSS is written in an old hand on the page for December, “ The 7th near 11 at night a shock of an earthquake generally felt through the Province but no damage as I've heard of.”

In Taylor's Almanac for 1738 occurs the following poetical description of the Province of Pennsylvania :

“ In this new world, so lately here begun,
 A thousand miles our King's dominions run ;
 About the centre lies well known to fame
 The Silvan shade that bears the Land Lord's name.
 A fruitful soil with gifts of nature blest,
 Improved by culture swifter than the rest.
 Like Palestine a land of good repute,
 For wheat and barley, honey, milk and fruit.
 Here not in vain the Master's skilful hand
 Manures the glebe, and cultivates the land :
 The ground producing ev'ry sort of grain,
 Pomarious profit, and the hortensian gain.
 Except not Rice, some by experience know,
 That useful grain will here in plenty grow.
 In wool and flax the Province will be made
 Too rich in time to call for foreign aid.
 And useful Hemp, its service to declare.
 Four Clerks would fall, Accountants all despair.
 Its magic-virtue in a skilful hand,
 Preserves the substance of a prudent land ;
 Who can at large its various uses tell ?
 What Clouds of Canvass on the Ocean swell !
 Th' extensive use of Cordage to declare,
 The Labour might with *Pliny's* works compare.
 I only touch the profits of the field ;
 And leave the Task for stronger hands to wield.
 And now my wild unbounded fancy roves
 In that vast region of the trees and groves ;
 But, lest therein, I scarce pretend to know
 What sorts of Oak in this great forest grow ;
 As many kinds, some say, as metals ly
 Beneath the ground, or Planets in the sky,

The chestnut tree for various uses good,
 Though soft and tender yet a lasting wood;
 Where numerous Chestnuts shade the fertile ground,
 Good fence with ease may spacious fields surround.
 As for the nuts, they may with acorns join,
 A noble mast for saginating swine.
 The cedar, spruce and cypress here are seen,
 The pine and laurel, these are very green,
 The ash, the beech, the maple chiefly grow
 By streams of waters and in vallies low.
 The sable walnut, and the locust strong
 Grow here in groves, and wrestle in the throng.
 The poplar's lofty head the clouds invades,
 The spreading boughs defusing lovely shades.
 The fir-tree may the lofty mountain grace
 And pines in gardens man for beauty place;
 But, while the verdure leaves, in none you see,
 A nobler prospect than the poplar tree.
 Here liquid Sugar drops from wounded trees,
 And aspen groves invite the gentle breeze.
 And now behold the lofty hills arise,
 That bear the arches of th' impending skies,
 Observe the rivals, and decide between
 Celestial azure and the mountan green.
 Behold the groves, consider well the skie,
 And say wherein the greater beauties ly.
 Which most the Mind with joy and wonder fills,
 The sky-blue curtain, or the verdant hills.
 When Israel's sons were led by Moses' hand,
 Who told the glories of the holy land,
 Melodious Themes the sacred Leader sings,
 Of hills and vallies, fountains, brooks and springs.
 What grov'ling Soul with patience can sustain
 The dull flat prospect of a constant plain;
 And ne'er reflect what precious treasure fills
 These *ancient mountains and the lasting hills.* Deut. 33. 15
 No dreams of gold or views of argent veins
 T' involve the land in war, the poor in chains.
 I sing the treasure now before your Eyes,
 The growing profit and the solid prize.
 The well-know metal of a gen'ral use,
 In copious stores the bounteous hills produce;
 The neighboring groves, the trees, as plenty grow,
 To melt the ore and make the metal flow.
 The world's last age may terminate the store
 Of trees above, and under ground the oar.
 To know what profit may from thence be made
 Ask not the stars, nor seek a Python's aid;
 As when you see the rising Tyde begin,
 And from the Ocean floods come rolling in,
 It moves no wonder, gives you no surprise,
 The swelling water will by nature rise.
 So when a hundred kilns and forges glow,
 A thousand streams of melted metal flow,
 Not the possessors of the Mines alone
 Will hoard the gain and make it all their own.
 The trade and profit, circling like the blood,
 Will then become a universal good.

This most peculiar blessing rarely fails,
 The happy land adorned with hills and vales,
 The crystal springs that wash the mountain's side,
 Start from the hills and through the valleys glide,
 Collect their force from single drops begun,
 Unite their streams, enlarging as they run ;
 From brook to brook discharge the liquid store,
 Till ample Rivers in procession roar.
 Where these abound who can the blessing tell
 Which all enjoy and few consider well.
 Upon the horrid fields of driving sand,
 Betwixt *Numedia* and the Negro's land,
 A merchant's tomb his monument remains
 Who dy'd of thirst upon the scorching plain :
 A greedy carrier, fond of sacred gold,
 A draught of water to the merchant sold,
 Ten thousand Ducats was the price it cost,
 So dear he paid his dearer life he lost.
 Who can behold the springs and purling rills
 In sweet Meanders gliding down the hills,
 And not remember these unhappy plains,
 Where horror dwells and death forever reigns ?

In June is written in an old hand "y^e Governour arrived y^e 1st day."

In August of this year ;

*If needless, things we laid aside,
 A woman destitute of Pride,
 Bohea and Green would scarcely steer
 Twelve thousand miles to find us here.*

Taylor for 1741 is filled with quotations from *Paradise Lost*.

Taylor's Almanac for 1743 was "printed and sold by ISAAH WARNER almost opposite to CHARLES BROCKDEN's, in *Chesnut-Street*;" and contains

"The *Indian Prophecy*.

"An Indian of this Province looking at the great Comet *Anno* 1680, being asked what he thought was the Meaning of that prodigious Appearance, his answer was, "*It signifies that we Indians shall melt away and this country be inhabited by another sort of People.*" This Prediction the *Indian* delivered very grave and positive, to a *Dutchman* of good Reputation, living there and many Years since near *Chester*, on *Delaware*, who related the same punctually to an *Englishman*, now living, whose Veracity, I think, is never questioned." The chain of evidence here is certainly very remarkable, but cannot be called conclusive. In the same *Almanac* at the end of an article on Politics occurs these words : "from us to the river *St. Lawrence*, we know the space too well. I could wish that his most Christian Majesty had, in lieu of that, a Country ten times better, and a thousand times the distance."

Taylor's *Almanac* for 1744, was "Printed and sold by I. WARNER and C. BRADFORD at the sign of the BIBLE in *Front-Street*."

The whole collection, filled with quaint and curious matter of which the foregoing is a fair specimen, is well worthy of attention as an example of early printing in Pennsylvania. The orthography is extremely unsettled, and the grammar equally uncertain.